

4/A

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION**

APPLICANT: Takefumi Nagumo, et al. ATTY. DOCKET NO. 09792909-4826

SERIAL NO.

DATE FILED:

INVENTION: "IMAGE ENCODING APPARATUS, METHOD AND MEDIUM"

Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

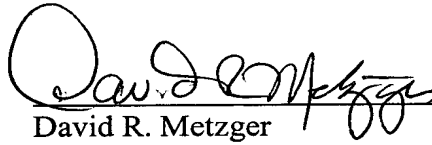
S I R:

Between the title and the heading "Background of the Invention" on page 1, insert the following:

--RELATED APPLICATION DATA

The present application claims priority to Japanese Application No. P2000-030275 filed February 2, 2000, which application is incorporated herein by reference to the extent permitted by law.--

Respectfully submitted,



(Reg. No. 32,919)

David R. Metzger  
SONNENSCHN NATH & ROSENTHAL  
P.O. Box #061080  
Wacker Drive Station  
Sears Tower  
Chicago, IL 60606-1080  
Customer #26263

Attorneys for Applicant(s)